REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-20, 24-27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39 and 41-43 are pending in this application. Claims 1-20, 24-27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 38 and 39 are hereby amended to correct minor grammatical errors. Claims 21-23, 28, 31, 34, 36, 37 and 40 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 41-43 are new. Claims 20, 22 and 32 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 20, 22 and 32 have been amended, obviating the objection. Claim 6 was rejected as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 6 has been amended, obviating the rejection. Claims 29 and 38 were rejected as allegedly indefinite. Applicants have amended claims 29 and 38, thereby obviating the rejection. Claim 5 was indicated as allowable if presented in independent form.

Claims 1, 9, 13, 17, 24, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39 and 41-43 are independent. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

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The Abstract was objected to due to informalities. The Abstract has been amended, obviating the objection.

The Office Action stated that the Specification contained grammatical errors. Applicants have amended the Specification as shown above.

The Office Action indicated that the Title was not descriptive. The Title has been amended, obviating the objection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 17-18, 20, 24-26, 29, 32-33, 35 and 37-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,472 to Perala ("Perala"). The rejection of claims 1-4, 7-8, 17-18, 20, 24-26, 29, 32-33, 35 and 37-38 is respectfully traversed because Perala fails to anticipate the features of the claimed invention.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 9-16, 19, 27, 30-31, 36 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatenable over Perala.

This rejection is also traversed because Perala fails to teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A display control apparatus for controlling display of information comprising... displaying <u>linking information, that is linked to content information</u>, and displaying a plurality of cursors operating on a corresponding display device; <u>selecting means for selecting at least a portion of said content information as a function of a corresponding position designated by at least two of said plurality of cursors</u>; and

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acquisition means for <u>acquiring said selected content information as a function the at least two cursors</u>." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Perala relates to a system including a personal computer (1) and a display (2) that is usable by at least two persons (owner 3 and customer 5) in connection with an application which does not support multiple mice or multiple cursor presentations. Each person has a respective mouse (4,6) and the customer is permitted to participate in the operation of the application, at least to the extent of being able to point to objects on the screen by means of a cursor.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention is directed to using at least two cursors, operating at terminal devices, to select and/or access content data. A determination as to which terminal acquires the content is made based on the cursor data. These features are absent from, and not obvious in view of, Perala.

Specifically, Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would disclose or suggest selecting means for selecting at least a portion of said content information as a function of <u>a designation by at least two of said plurality of cursors</u>; and <u>acquiring said selected content information as a function the at least two cursors</u>, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Perala and is, therefore, allowable.

Independent claim 9 recites, *inter alia*:

"selecting means for <u>selecting at least a portion of the second information, as a function of a corresponding position designated by at least two of said plurality of cursors</u>; and
acquisition means for acquiring the selected second information." (emphasis added)

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Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest these features.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 9 is allowable.

Independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*:

"selecting means for selecting additional information that is linked to designated information <u>designated by at least two of said plurality of cursors</u>; and
    acquisition means for <u>acquiring the selected additional information as a function of the cursor information for the at least two cursors</u>." (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 17 recites, *inter alia*:

"...selecting means for <u>selecting at least a portion of content information that is linked to linking information</u>, the linking information being <u>designated by at least two of said cursors</u>, where the linking information is displayed together with at least two cursors" (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 24 recites, *inter alia*:

"...selecting means for <u>selecting content as a function of cursor information for at least two cursors</u>; and
    accessing means for <u>accessing the selected content as a function of the at least two cursors</u>." (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 29 recites, *inter alia*:

"...acquiring cursor <u>information for at least two cursors related to at least two</u> <u>associated terminal devices</u>; and

<u>displaying the content on one of the terminal devices</u> as a function of said cursor information." (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would

teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 30 recites, *inter alia*:

"...selecting <u>at least a portion of information accessed as a function of a position</u> <u>designated by at least two of said plurality of cursors</u>; and

<u>acquiring the information</u> selected by said selecting means at one or more terminal devices <u>associated with the at least two cursors</u>." (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 32 recites, *inter alia*:

"...selecting a portion of the information <u>designated by two or more cursors</u>; and <u>acquiring said selected information as a function of data associated with the two or</u> <u>more cursors</u>." (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would

teach or suggest these features.

Independent claims 33 and 35 are directed to, *inter alia*:

...<u>acquiring the selected information as a function of the cursor information for the</u> <u>at least two cursors</u>.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would

teach or suggest this feature.

Independent claim 38 recites, *inter alia*:

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"..acquiring <u>cursor information for at least two cursors</u> related to at least two associated terminal devices; and

display control step for <u>displaying the content on one of the terminal devices as a function of said cursor information.</u>" (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest these features.

Independent claim 39 recites, *inter alia*:

"…an acquisition control step for <u>acquiring the content information selected during said selecting step at one of the terminal devices as a function of the two or more cursors.</u>" (emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Perala that would teach or suggest this feature.

New claims 41-43 are similar in scope to one or more claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
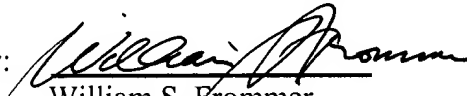
CONCLUSION

While Applicants note that the Office Action indicates additional art, which was not used as a basis of rejection, Applicants do not represent that an exhaustive review of such additional art has been performed.

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Statements appearing above in respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney and, in the event the Examiner disagrees with any of such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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